SENATOR PALMER.

AS A PRESIDENTIAL POSSIBILITY HE IS ATTRACTING MUCH ATTENTION.

Though He Is Seventy-five Years of Age. He Still Speaks with the Clear, Resonant Voice of Health and Strength-An Interesting Sketch by Walter Wellman.

[Special Correspondence.] WASHINGTON, Feb. 25 .- Among all the presidential possibilities now in the national capital, none is attracting more attention than Senator John McAuley Palmer, the "grand old man of Illinois." He made a speech in the senate a few days ago, and the crowds which gathered in the galleries and the senators who clustered about him on the floor mar-

veled that a man of threescore and

fifteen should show so much vigor of

mind and body. He spoke like a man in his prime-a clear voice, forceful ges-

JOHN M. PALMER. ture, alertness to all that was going on about him, forceful gestures all contributing to the effect which surprised all beholders and delighted his friends. It is not often we see in the United States senate or anywhere else a man seventy-five years old disporting himself in the oratorical arena like a man of forty, with all his faculties unimpaired and the fires of his eloquence undimmed by the cloud of age.

The span of this man's life carries us back to the year 1817. His career has been synchronous with the development of nearly all there is of the American republic. He was almost a man grown before the iron horse made its appearance in the land. In his youth the country existed chiefly east of the Alleghany mountains. Through all these seventyfive years he has been a worker in life's vineyard, in the very thick of the fighting in war and peace, and yet here he is apparently good for a quarter of a century more of activity and usefulness.

Like so many of the great men who have been sent to the capital by Illinois, Senator Palmer is a native of Kentucky and comes of good old Virginia stock. His great-grandfather came from Ireland and was of Scotch ancestry. His grandfather was born on the shores of the Potomac, 100 miles below Washington, and carried a gun in the war of the Revolution. "I have myself heard my grandfather tell of the battle of Yorktown," said Senator Palmer a day or two ago, "and I remember distinctly a little joke which he was fond of perpetrating in connection. He always spoke of Lord Cornwallis as 'Cob-wallis-because we shelled the corn off him at Yorktown." Senator Palmer's father, Lewis D., was a pioneer in Kentucky, a cabinet maker at Lexington, whence he removed to the Green river country in that state to become a farmer. His earthly possessions were a wife, two horses and two boys, the younger of them being the present senator. "I was very young then," said the senator in recalling some of the incidents of his youth, "but I have been told that father rode one horse with my brother up behind him, while my mother rode the other with me in front of her. I was so young that all I needed to make me happy was plenty of food and sleep. and so far as I know I have been in the same condition ever since.'

On the Black Jack lands of the Green river country Lewis Palmer acquired more children than riches. Of seven sons he considered John McAuley one of the dullest and least promising. He sent the boy to school to Daniel Boone, who used a hazel switch on the future governor and senator about twice a day during one whole term, and when Palmer senior returned from the Indian wars, where he had served for a time under General William Henry Harrison, he gave it as his opinion that young John had deserved all he had received and more. After a time Father Palmer caught the Illinois craze which was then sweeping over Kentucky, and which gave to the state, which is now the third of the Union, some of the best blood from Kentucky and Virginia. Packing up his few chattels and his seven sons and daughters he removed to Madison county, Ills.. firing the imagination of his sons by telling them that on the prairies they could all have a farm for the asking and fill their pockets by simply tickling the virgin soil.

Young John, who was at that time fourteen years old, very soon began to evince an extraordinary desire to secure an education. His father said to him: "John, my son, I am a poor man and cannot give you money. The most I can do for you is to give you your time. Go and see what you can do for yourself." In those pioneer days a father expected the full benefit of his son's services till he was twenty-one years old, and he was considered very generous who made his son a present of three or four years of his minority. So young John started out to see what he could do. He worked by the day for neighboring farmers, drove four oxen breaking the prairie sod with a big plow, husked corn, planted, cared for stock. One day he went to town and saw in a tailor's shop a cotton suit which the tailor had had left on his hands. It was worth twelve dollars. Young Palmer eyed it enviously, and sold the boy the suit on credit. A few supported Horace Greeley in 1879 and

the youngster with \$7.50, which he had nominated for United States senstor earned by hard day's work on the neighborhood and three times defeated; delegate to boring farms. "John," said his father, "you still owe Tailor Moore seven dollars." "Yes, father." "And you have \$7.50?" "Yes." "Well, tomorrow will be Independence Day, and if you want to be a free and independent man go the first thing in the morning and pay that debt. No man is free and independent who owes another money." Next morning the debt was paid, and a third of a century later, when the barefoot boy had become governor of Illinois, it was paid again in the appointment of Tailor Moore to a somewhat lucrative office, which he held for many years and which was his support in the declining years of life. "I give you this office," said Governor Palmer to the ex-tailor, "because you are a brave man. I know you are brave because you once trusted a poor

boy to a suit of clothes.' Young Palmer still dreamed of an education. Shurtleff college, Alton, was then a new school in which students were permitted to maintain themselves by manual labor. John Palmer and his elder brother Elisha, afterward a noted Baptist preacher and an antislavery man of southern Illinois, supported themselves for several terms by assisting in bricklaying, carpenter work and doing chores nights, mornings and Sundays while pursuing their studies. After leaving college Palmer taught school. peddled clocks and worked for a cooper, but at twenty-one years of age found himself a law student at Carlinville. He was soon admitted to the bar at Springfield, his license being signed by John Young Scammon, one of Chicago's early and most noted jurists, who was also the founder of the Chicago Inter Ocean.

When twenty-five years old—that was half a century ago—Palmer was mar-ried to Malinda Neeley, who, like himself, was a native of Kentucky. Mrs. Palmer's mother was a member of the Beauchamp family, a noted family of French extraction, famous throughout southern Kentucky for their beauty. Mrs. Palmer's personal appearance strongly indicated this French descent, for even yet among the old people of Carlinville one may hear of that lady's brilliant black eyes, her tiny foot and her raven locks. When she married the future senator she was not quite fifteen, and she was to him a child wife like David Copperfield's Dora, but with a happier result, for she lived with her husband forty years and became the mother of ten children. Senator Palmer has now in his household in this city one of his daughters, Mrs. Weber, who has all the characteristics of her mother, the belle of southern Illinois half a century

Shortly after his marriage young Palmer tried and won a lawsuit. "How much do you charge me, John?" asked the client. "Five dollars." "Well, as you are a family man, I suppose you would just as soon take pay in cornmeal." In a few days Mrs. Palmer was astonished to see two barrels of cornmeal dumped at her door, and, though Senator Palmer doesn't say so, it is a tradition in Carlinville that as his practice was at first not very extensive and times hard the young attorney and his wife lived for a winter on corn mush and fried hominy.

An evening with this "grand old man" simple, approachable, intensely human. Like that other Kentuckian who went to Illinois to win renown-Abraham Lincoln—he is essentially a man of the people. His memory is prodigious. He remembers the names of the slaves who were owned by his father in Kentucky, inherited by his mother and soon afterward disposed of. He remembers the names of his father's neighbors and of all his schoolmates.

General Palmer's father kept a few slaves for a time, but the young man never liked the institution of slavery. All his life he has loved the downtrodden race. It was through his efforts that the colored children were admitted to the public schools in Illinois, carrying a test

case to the supreme court and winning it. This life of seventy-five years, which s still so full of promise, has been full of public service. Having briefly sketched the ancestry and boyhood of this remarkable man-with reference to two or three of a thousand incidents which help to characterize him-let me summarize his public career:

Born, 1817; admitted to the bar, 1839; probate judge, 1843; member constitutional convention, 1847; county judge. 1848; member state senate, 1852; reelected as an independent and anti-Nebraska Democrat; left the Democratic party on the slavery question, and re-



SENATOR PALMER AND HIS LITTLE

WIFE. signing his seat in the senate on that account, 1856; delegate to the Republican state convention and president thereof, and delegate to convention which nominated Fremont, same year; supporter are full of simple manliness and tender of Lincoln against Douglas, 1858; can-strength. didate for congress, 1859; presidential elector on Republican ticket, 1860; member peace conference at Washington, 1861; colonel of volunteers, and promoted to brigadier general, 1861: prominent in the military operations of 1862: promoted to major general, 1863; prominent in the campaigns and battles of Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge and Atlanta: commandthe tailor asked him to try it on. As a ed military department of Kentucky, result the tailor, whose name was Moore. | 1865-6; elected governor of Illinois, 1868;

months later the 3d day of July found Samuel J. Tilden in 1876; three times

national Democratic convention, 1881; 1888; nominated and elected senator.

1890-1. General Palmer's first wife died in 1880. In 1885 he married Mrs. Hannah Kimball, of Springfield, Ills., whose father had been a Republican. Mrs. Kimball was converted to Democracy by hearing one of Senator Palmer's speeches, and ever since their marriage she has been to him a helpmeet and an inspiration. She is a little mite of a woman, and one of the pretty pictures to be seen almost daily in the Capitol restaurant is the big senator, brimming over with years, health, good humor and kindliness, taking luncheon with his devoted tin. young wife. Mrs. Palmer is very popular in Washington society, where her good taste and unfailing tact are becoming celebrated.

If General Palmer has a predominating characteristic, it is his love of fair play. tle girl? In all his life, and it has been a life of fighting, he never struck an unfair blow. He is honesty, justice and generosity Strathmore Clum.
personified. He is full of humor, anecdote and quaint recital, but his sense of justice is so acute that he almost infallibly perceives the right and courageously espouses it, no matter at what cost to himself. He is indeed "the grand old man of Illinois,"

WALTER WELLMAN.

A YOUNG POET.

Bliss Carman and His Work in the Field of Literature.

[Special Correspondence.] New York, Feb. 25.—One of the most striking figures among the younger lit-erary men of New York is Mr. Bliss Carman, who came to the metropolis two years ago to assume the literary editorship of The Independent. He is a Canadian by birth and education, coming from one of the old loyalist families who settled the provinces at the time of the Revolution. While at school and college he was passionately fond of canoeing, snowshoeing and an outdoor, wandering life, much of his time both in



BLISS CARMAN. summer and winter being spent on the rivers and in the woods. He gained the repute of being as expert a canoeist as an Indian, and today he is prouder of his skill in that art than of his literary success. After graduating from the Uni-London, Edinburgh and Harvard, devoting himself especially to English and philosophy, but going back every vacation to the wild, roving life of a half If I could have the thing I want woodsman, half dreamer, on his own familiar streams. The beautiful Evangeline country in Nova Scotia is one of his favorite stamping grounds, and he has written much of the wide marshes and the enormous tides of that peaceful I'd just take Russell Sage's luck region-

Where one heartbeat counts for ten, Where the loving hand is loyal, And the women's sons are men

But Mr. Carman seems equally in love with large cities and the intensity of life they afford. His long stay in this coun- row a dress-coat. try has given him a great affection for its people.

Not more than three or four years ago Thomas Bailey Aldrich, then editor of The Atlantic Monthly, was the first to notice Mr. Carman's poems and began to print them in that magazine. Since that time Mr. Carman has rapidly won distinction and commanded recognition from the most severe critics here and in England, yet he seems curiously indifferent to popularity, and persistently refuses all inducements to allow his work to be published in book form. The reason for this seems to be that he is a most conscientious worker, setting before himself the highest standard of art, and like Rosetti he fears to give permanent form to anything insignificant or immature. Although this reserve is praiseworthy in a young author, it leaves him open to the danger of becoming artificial rather than artistic. At present his work is only printed for private circulation among his friends three or four times a year.

These poems are marked by directness and richness of expression, originality of conception and phrase and a wonderful lyric quality all their own. Carman's earliest work has all the gorgeous coloring of Turner's pictures, and not infrequently a good deal of that artist's mystic confusion. Latterly, however, this characteristic has given place to one more trenchant and definite, resembling the vigorous compositions of Rembrandt. Such ballads as "The Last Watch," be-

Comrades, comrades, have me buried, Like a warrior of the sea: With the flag across my breast

And my sword upon my knee. In person Mr. Carman is tall and of

athletic build. He is about thirty years

old and a most indefatigable worker.

His manners are reserved and gentle. almost to timidity. His judicial temper. scholarship and keen artistic instinct make him particularly efficient as an editor and critic, and have won for him a large circle of warm personal friends. In a late number the London Academy says, "Perhaps the strongest, certainly the most delicately artistic of the younger American poets, is Mr. Bliss F. DE THUMMEL CLOTH. Carman.

nominated for governor and defeated. GRIND OUT SOME NEW JOKES THIS WEEK.

> A Son of the Emerald Isle Runs Amuck of a Gentleman From Jerusalem and Comes Out Second Best Some Very Funny Sayings.

> An Irishman picket up a round bit of n in the street. It looked like a coin, and he walke i into the nearest saloon and ordered a drink, putting down the disk when he had finished. "Here!" said the bar-keeper; "this is

The Irishman's Treat.

"Tin, is it?" says the Irishman.

Thin hey wan vuresilf."

Cause and Effect. Gentleman---What is your name, lit-

Little girl--Evelyn Antoinette Billings Smith Redfern Hathaway Jacobs

Gentleman-You have a long name for a little girl. Little girl-Yes, sir; but ma lived in

Chicago seven years."



Mr. Gregan-"Bedad! look at this coat yez sould me lasht noight fer a blue wan. Shure, it's grane this

Mr. Golstein-"Mein tear frendt, dot goat ees fur ecfening vare only."

Then, of Course, She Was Satisfied. Wife-Harry, I never thought you could change so. You used to say that you might search the world over and you never could find a woman equal to me, and now you are scarcely ever at

Husband-Oh, that's all right, dear; I'm simply making the search now, to prove the correctness of my assertion.

No One to Borrow From-Lipsley-You know those eigars Miss Bacon sent me for Christmas? Lapsley-Yes.

Lipsley-Well, I gave a lot to my friends and now I haven't any left. Lapsley-What, cigars? Lipsley-No, friends.

Crank Inventors. Mephisto-If St. Peter doesn't stop

here I'll throw up my job. Asmodeus-What is the trouble? of Illinois is a rare treat. He is plain, versity of New Brunswick, Mr. Carman came to me to-day and submitted plans structed and hospitals built. It was spent several years in further study at for having this place heated with steam named Swinburne island. One mile and hot air instead of brimstone.

> Luck Is Wealth In all this world of good and bad; If I could have the thing I want, And what I wanted could be had, With wealth and fame I'd have no

truck.

Acquainted With It. Ella (at the opera)-There's Charley Slim, and I do believe he's got on Harry Saunders's coat.

Sallie-Nonsense! He wouldn't bor-Ella (excitedly)-Don't you suppose! know that right sleeve?

She Will Rule. Trivvet-Do you think Queen Victoria will abdicate in favor of the Prince of

Wales? Dicer-No, indeed. She'll rule till she dies.

Trivvet-Then it will be another instance of the ruling passion strong in

Not Often.

Secretary of the Navy-I shall go over o New York in the morning. Assistant-On one of the naval

Secretary of the Navy-Did you ever hear of a doctor taking his own medi-

Stale News.

Mr. Halfcentury-The newspapers must be hard up for news. Mrs. Halfcentury-Why so?

Mr. Halfcentury-Here's an item that the oldest man in New York State died last week, and the oldest man in New York State died when I wasn't more than 16.

A Slight Coolness.



Shivver.-This is Masonic rooms, is n't it? Mrs. Defrees.-What do you mean, Shivver.-It never gets above thirty

Outside the Circle.

"Is she in society?" "No; I don't believe she ever took a less on in Delsarte in her life."

IMPORTED FEVERS.

Rew York's Painful Experience in the Early Days. [Spet ial Correspondence.]

New York, Feb. 25.—The quarantine lepartment at the port of New York lacks two years of being a century old. In 1794 the citizens, having been repeatedly frightened by the importation of contagious diseases, demanded that a quaran tine be established. The state responded with an appropriation for the construction of a hospital and outbuildings, and for that purpose gave Governor's island. Four years later a yellow fever scourge passed over the city, and before it passed away New Yorkers demanded better protection and the removal of the station to a more distant point. In 1799 an act was passed in the legislature authorizing the purchase of a large plot of land at Tompkinsville, S. I., where the lighthouse department is now located, and directed that a marine hospital and boarding station be established there. Despite the protest of Staten Islanders these directions were carried out not long after.

A second disastrous yellow fever epidemic broke out in New York in 1803, but the results were most serious on Staten Island. From then on up to 1830 several others scarcely less serious in effect followed. Frightened and indignant at the risks thrust upon them, the Islanders held frequent indignation meetings protesting against the continuance of the department on their shores. No attention was paid by the legislature to the petitions signed by residents of the island alternately requesting and de-manding the removal of the hospital to some remoter place. The indignation was at fever heat in 1848, when yellow fever in its worst form visited the island with serious results.

The petitions became more numerous and finally the tardy lawmakers appointed a commission to secure a new site. An attempt was made to buy a portion of Sandy Hook, but the state of New Jersey refused to ratify the purchase. Coney Island point was considered, but for some reason unknown the proposition to go there was dismissed. Finally, after much waste of time, a site was procured at Seguine's point, on the extreme southern shore of Staten Island. Hospital buildings were erected, but the neighbors being angry that a plague should be sent to them, turned out on the night of May 6, 1857, and burned down every house which had been constructed.

New Jersey again refused to allow Sandy Hook to be used for quarantine purposes. Impatient over the delay, and having discovered a remedy to get rid of the annoyance, east and north shore Staten Islanders gathered on the nights of Sept. 1 and 2, 1858, and removed all the patients from the hospitals at Tompkinsville. They then burned down all the state property which could be fired.

At their wits' end for a station, and having been practically driven off the land, the steamboat Falcon was bought by the authorities and anchored in the lower bay, where she served as a fever hospital. Subsequently the merchantsending American crank inventors down men Empire City and Illinois were purchased for the same purpose. Plans for an artificial island on the west bank Mephisto-Why, one of these fellows | were formulated, and in 1868 it was confarther north, on the same bar, Hoffman island, another of the same kind, was also built and completed in 1872. In 1874 a boarding station was established on Staten Island a short distance north of the Narrows.

The two "hospital islands," as they are called, are built on a sand bar. A heavy crib work was first constructed and surrounded with large rocks extending above high water mark. The interior of the crib work was filled with sand and covered with asphalt. Since the improvements in 1884, when 1,000 immigrants were under observation on both islands, new buildings have been constructed. On Hoffman island there are four-two dormitories, the superintendent's residence and a building containing boilers for disinfecting, drying and eating rooms. Stone and iron only are used in the construction of these buildings. The former have galvanized iron walls, which are covered with fresco, while the floors are made of asphalt. The berths and bathtubs are of iron and in keeping with all the appointments on

the island—germ proof. All the hospitals are on Swinburne island, and also the cemetery and mortuary. Unless a wish is expressed to the contrary, all persons dying of contagious discuses are invariably cremated. When the crematory was built, all the dead which had up to that time been buried at Seguine's point were disinand cremated. This property is no longer used for quarantine purposes.

Four years ago the old ship Illinois having outlived her usefulness as a floating hospital, the merchantman S. D. Carleton was bought, dismasted, and nterest in five years to \$1,500,00. fitted up for patients. During the winter months she is tied up in Erie basin. and in the spring she will be anchored in the lower bay several miles north of Sandy Hook, out of the way of inward and outward bound vessels.

Health Officer Jenkins receives a salary of \$10,000 a year and a fine residence. He is appointed by the governor and the senate confirms the appointment. He serves for two years or until the appointment of his successor. Subject to his commands there is a staff of surgeons and two revenue cutters. His hours of duty are from sunrise to sunset. No vessel is allowed to pass the quarantine station after sundown, although occasionally this rule is suspended.

On passing the Narrows steamships usually anchor, and ships in tow slow down to await the doctor's coming in his revenue cutter. The ship's paperand log are examined and an investigation made if the vessel is from a port afflicted with a contagious disease. In ninety-nine out of a hundred cases the visitors are granted clean bills of health and allowed to continue on their way to their wharves or anchorage.

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